

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Applicant has canceled claims 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, 23, 30, 33, 50, 51 and 52 in favor of newly submitted claims 55-67 which clearly and carefully distinguish over the art of record. Newly added claims 55-67 are included in the claims of Group I.

More specifically, applicant has rewritten allowed claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, 52, as independent claims 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62 and 65, respectively, and are likewise believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 63 recites a lined multi-branch fitting comprising metal housing members assembled over a preformed one-piece hollow heat degradable liner having a plurality of hollow intersecting branches, each having an axis, with the full extent of the external portions of the joints between said housing members joined by weld metal and wherein said joints include radially inner portions comprising a slot adjacent said liner throughout the full extent of said joints, on one of said housing members in a male strip projection on the other of said housing members throughout the full extent of said joints.

Claim 64 similarly recites a lined multi-branch fitting comprising a plurality of metal housing members assembled over said preformed liner including adjacent inner ends each having radially

outer and radially inner end portions forming a joint there-between of a predetermined extent and the fillet weld bead joining a radially outer portion of one of said housing members to the other of said housing members over said predetermined extent.

Claim 66 likewise recites a lined multi-branch fitting including a fillet weld bead integrally coupling said adjacent ends of said confronting terminal ends of said metal housing members together, along the full extent of said confronting terminal ends, in sealed relation with each other to preclude the passage of liquid between said confronting terminal ends.

The Press, et al, at No. 4,681,349 discloses a conventional plastic lined welded metal joint including (in Figs. 7-11) a stack 31 joined to stub ends 32 and 34 along surfaces designated by the reference character 60-67 in Fig. 11. Although this patentee alludes to a fillet weld in the areas designated 62 and 66, it is clear that the areas 60 and 64 are configured for butt welding and the areas 61, 63, 65 and 67 include both fillet and butt welds (see column 6, line 67 through column 7, line 4 and column 5, line 65 through column 6, line 4). It is clear that the fillet welds are not formed along the full extent of the confronting ends of the stub ends 31, 32 and 34. Accordingly, applicant's construction recited in claims 63, 64 and 66 is not anticipated by the Press, et al patent.

It is also respectfully submitted that it would not be obvious to modify Press to include a fillet weld along the full extent of the surfaces 60-67 identified in Fig. 11 of the Press patent because this modification would be contrary to the specific purpose for which Press provides the varying surfaces showing the differing welds. It is clear that the butt welds, illustrated in Fig. 5, comprise a substantial portion of the weld between the adjoining fittings 31, 32 and 34.

This patentee goes to great lengths to specifically identify the configuration which is required on the confronting portions 60-67 of the fittings. To now modify these surfaces to allow a fillet weld along the entire extent of the fittings would be contrary to the very specific purpose for which he provides these fittings and these welds. Accordingly, such modification is a hindsight modification made only in view of applicant's own disclosure since applicant is the only one to disclose this concept.

In applicant's construction, the fillet welds will not burn through the confronting portions and thus will not degrade the liner which necessarily occurs throughout the butt welding portions of the confronting members 31, 32 and 34 in the Press et al construction. The weld heat will necessarily cause the liners of Press et al to deteriorate the liner. Applicant has thus provided new and novel structure cooperating in a new and novel manner to produce a new and novel result not taught, suggested or anticipated

by any of the art of record. It is respectfully submitted that this is excellent evidence of patentability.

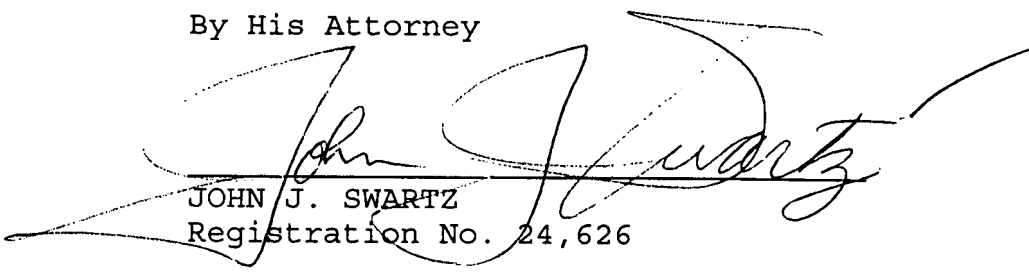
Since all of the claims now remaining in the case are in obvious condition for allowance, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

In the event the examiner is of the opinion that the above-identified application does not overcome all of the rejections and does not place the case in obvious condition for allowance, the examiner is respectfully requested to call the applicant's attorney collect to set up either a telephone interview or a personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,

JERRY C. SOCIER

By His Attorney



JOHN J. SWARTZ
Registration No. 24,626